DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 080 012 FL 004 302

AUTHOR Topping, Donald M.
TITLE Chamorro Orthography: A Final Report on the Decisions of the Marianas Orthography Committee.
INSTITUTION Hawaii Univ., Honolulu. Pacific and Asian Linguistics Inst.
PUB DATE Feb 71
NOTE 12p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS *Alphabets; Capitalization (Alphabetic); Committees; Consonants; Function Words; *Language Standardization; Letters (Alphabet); *Official Languages; Orthographic Symbols; Phonetics; *Spelling; Suffixes; Syllables; Uncommonly Taught Languages; Vowels; *Written Language
IDENTIFIERS *Chamorro

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a summary of the decisions made by the members of the Marianas Orthography Committee and contains recommendations and general rules for official and formal adoption into the writing system of the Chamorro language throughout the Mariana Islands. The committee presents the general rules with the hope that they will be followed by all persons who are involved in writing official papers of any kind in the Chamorro language; such as school texts, legal documents, newspaper publications, and biblical texts. The rules concern capitalization; choice of alphabetic symbols; diphthongs, consonants and vowels in various environments and circumstances; spelling of borrowed words; free words; affixes; clitics; and reduplication and infixes. (VM)

ED 080012

CHAMORRO ORTHOGRAPHY

A Final Report on the Decisions of
the Marianas Orthography Committee.

Submitted to: Mr. Burl Yarberry
Director of Education
Trust Territory of the Pacific

Mr. John Feazell
District Director of Education
Saipan, M.I.

Dr. Pedro Sanchez
Chairman, Committee for the Preservation
of the Chamorro Language and Culture
Guam, M.I.

Members of the Committee: Judge Ignacio V. Benavente (Saipan)
Mr. Jose S. Pangelinan (Saipan)
Dr. Manuel M. Aldan (Saipan)
Mr. Vicente N. Santos (Saipan)
Mr. Luis A. Benavente (Saipan)
Mr. Justin S. Manglona (Rota)
Mrs. Lagrimas L.G. Untalan (Guam)
Mrs. Bernadita C. Dungca (Guam)

Submitted by: Donald M. Topping
University of Hawaii

Date: February 1971

FL 004 302

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

FILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

This paper presents a summary of the decisions made by the members of the Marianas Orthography Committee during a two-week meeting which was held at the Marianas District Education Office, Saipan, M.I., from January 11 through January 21, 1971. These decisions were made by the committee members with the understanding that the recommendations made will constitute the officially and formally adopted writing system for the Chamorro language throughout the Mariana Islands.

The committee included the following officially designated members:

Judge Ignacio V. Benavente (Saipan)
Mr. Jose S. Pangelinan (Saipan)
Dr. Manuel M. Aldan (Saipan)
Mr. Vicente N. Santos (Saipan)
Mr. Luis A. Benavente (Saipan)
Mr. Justin S. Manglona (Rota)
Mrs. Lagrimas L.G. Untalan (Guam)
Mrs. Bernadita C. Dungca (Guam)

The recommendations presented in this paper are a set of general rules that will be applied to the Chamorro writing system. It is hoped that these general rules will be followed by all persons who are involved in writing official papers of any kind in the Chamorro language, such as school texts, legal documents, newspaper publications, biblical texts and the like. A dictionary which will give the officially adopted spelling for each word is being prepared at the University of Hawaii for publication in the very near future.

The rules for Chamorro orthography are as follows:

1. Proper Names.

All proper names in Chamorro (family and place) will retain their traditional spellings as they appear on maps, property deeds, and in other records.

2. Capitalization.

The standard practices of English and Spanish capitalization will continue to be followed.

3. Choice of Alphabetic Symbols.

The following consonant and vowel symbols will be used in Chamorro spelling. They are given here in alphabetic order: a, b, ch, d, e, f, g, h, i, ', k, l, m, n, ñ, ng, o, p, r, s, t, u, y.

(The letters c, j, q, v, w, z will be used in the spelling of proper names only.)

Example words are given to illustrate the phonetic value of each of the spelling symbols.

Symbol	Example Word	English Meaning
a	baba	bad
a	b̲aba	open (Note: the same symbol a is used to represent two sounds.)
b	baba	bad
ch	chalan	road
d	dagao	throw
e	ekungok	listen
f	fugo'	squeeze
g	ga'chong	friend

h	hatsa	lift
i	hita	we (inclusive)
'	haga'	blood
k	kada	each
l	litratu	picture
m	malago'	want
n	nana	mother
ñ	ñamu	mosquito
ng	nginge'	sniff
o	oppe	answer
p	pachot	mouth
r	ramas	branch
s	saddok	river
t	taya'	nothing
u	uchan	rain
y	yan	and

For the purpose of alphabetizing words, the glottal stop will be ignored. For example, note the following words listed in alphabetical order:

na'ayao	lend
nabaha	pocketknife
na'balanse	cause to balance
nabegadot	navigator

4. Diphthongs.

The diphthongs in the writing system will be treated as sequences of vowels. The most common diphthongs are as follows:

ao	taotao	person
ai	taitai	read
oi	tatfoi	so much
ea	manea	manage
ia	dia	day

5. Consonant Symbols in Final Position.

The following consonants will not appear at the end of a word: b, d, g, ch, y, ñ, l, r. The consonants b, d, g, l may appear at the end of a syllable only when the consonant is geminate, i.e. when

the following syllable of the same word begins with the same consonant. Examples are:

yabbao	slash
godde	to tie
meggai	many
halla	pull

Words that have traditionally been written with final g, such as maoleg, will now be written with final k, for example maolek.

6. Unstressed Vowels in Open Syllables.

The letters a, i, u will be used to represent unstressed vowels in open syllables (syllables which end in a vowel) when the shape of the word is CVCV (where C = consonant, V = vowel). Examples are:

lahi	man
hagu	you
na'i	give to
lagu	north, east
mata	eye, face

The same rule applies to unstressed vowels in open syllables of polysyllabic words except when the preceding vowel is o or e. For example:

sangani	tell to
dalalaki	follow

but

dankolo	big

In the case of dankolo, the first o results from the preceding consonant cluster nk (cf. rule no. 7); the final o results from the preceding o.

7. Unstressed Vowels in Open Syllables Following Consonant Cluster.

The unstressed vowels in open syllables following a sequence of consonants will be represented by e, o, and a. Examples are:

tatte	follow
ho'ye	accept, grant
hamyo	you all
listo	ready
halla	pull

8. Unstressed Vowels in Closed Syllables.

The vowels e, o, and a will be used to represent the unstressed vowels in closed syllables, i.e. syllables which end with a consonant. Examples are:

huyong	out
halom	in
lapes	pencil
li'e'	see
hakmang	eel

The letters i and u will be used to represent stressed vowels in closed syllables when the quality of the sound in the word is clearly that which is associated with the symbols i and u. Examples are:

asút	blue
hatdín	garden

9. Unstressed Vowels in Spanish Loan Words.

For words borrowed from Spanish in which the pronunciation of unstressed vowels is not clear, rules 6, 7 and 8 above will apply. Examples are:

bunita	pretty
asta ki	until
empidi	prohibit
desbela	stay awake
risibi	receipt
difensot	defender

The same rules apply to words borrowed from Japanese where the pronunciation of the unstressed vowel is not perfectly clear.

10. Spelling of Borrowed Words.

Spanish and Japanese words which have been assimilated into Chamorro will be spelled according to the general rules for Chamorro spelling. The spellings will reflect the changes in pronunciation that the words have undergone. Examples are:

Spanish	Chamorro	
verde	betde	green
la mesa	lamasa	table
paloma	paluma	dove
caballo	kabayu	horse

Recently borrowed English words will retain their English spelling and will be underlined or italicized in print. When the English word contains Chamorro affixes, then it will be spelled according to the general rules for Chamorro spelling. Examples of this latter type are:

pumipiknek	to go on picnic
bumabasketbal	to play basketball
manespleplehen	explaining

11. Consonant Alternation.

When the pronunciation of consonants changes due to affixation, the spelling will be changed accordingly to represent the change in pronunciation. Most of the changes in consonants are caused by the affixation of the prefix man-, as in the following examples:

man + po'lo	→	mamo'lo	to put
man + taña'	→	manaña'	to taste
man + kati	→	mangati	to cry
man + saga	→	mañaga	to stay
man + gupu	→	manggupu	to fly

The pronunciation of the first person singular possessive pronoun hu is determined by the stem to which it is attached. For example, it is pronounced tu when it follows a stem ending with t, as in [pachot-tu], 'my mouth'. It is pronounced su when it follows a stem ending with s, as in [lassas-su] 'my skin'. And it is pronounced ku when it follows a stem that ends with a vowel preceded by two consonants, as in [lepblo-ku] 'my book'. For purposes of spelling, hu and ku only will be used. ku will be used for spelling when that pronunciation is normal. hu will be used elsewhere.

12. Excrescent Consonants.

When additional consonants are added through affixation, they will be represented in the spelling system. The following are examples of excrescent consonants:

lepblo+ mami	→	lepblon-mami	our book
saga + ñaihon	→	saganñaihon	stay for a while
hanao + iyi	→	hanaguiyi	go for someone

13. Superfluous Consonants.

When the pronunciation of the consonant ng is predictable (i.e. before k), it will not be written. Instead, only n will be written, as in the following examples:

dankolo	big
enkatgao	caretaker
denkot	peck at

14. Geminate Consonants and Syllable-final h.

Although the pronunciation of geminate consonants and syllable-final h varies among different speakers of Chamorro (younger Guamanians and people from Rota tend to omit them), they will be included in the spelling. The authoratative spelling of such words will be based on the standard pronunciation of mature speakers from Guam and Saipan. Some example words are:

tommo	knee
laggua	parrot fish
fatto	come
halla	pull
meggai	many
mohmo	chew for
sahnge	strange
mamahlao	be bashful

15. Fronting of Vowels.

When the pronunciation of a vowel is changed due to vowel fronting, this change will be reflected in the spelling, as in the following examples:

foggon	i feggon	the stove
guma'	i gima'	the house

16. Raising of Vowels.

When the pronunciation of a vowel is changed due to vowel raising, the change in pronunciation will be reflected in the spelling, as in the following examples:

fugo'	fugu'i	squeeze for
kuentos	kuentusi	speak to
maolek	maoliki	do good for
tatte	tattiyi	return for

17. Free Words.

All content words ("adjectives, verbs, nouns") will be written as separate words in Chamorro. Some examples of content words are:

kareta	car
dankolo	big
fugo'	squeeze
fata'chong	sit down

The following function words will be written as separate words in Chamorro:

Function Word	Example Phrase	English Meaning
i	i palao'an	the woman
ni'	ni' palao'an	the woman
si	si Juan	John
as	as Juan	John
nu	nu guahu	me
na	dankolo na tactao	big man
ha'	Hu tungo' ha'.	I really know.
fan	Mangga fan un ratu.	Wait a minute please.
ni	ni hayiyi	no one
sen	sen magof	very happy
gof	gof magof	very happy
sin	sin salape'	without money
tai	tai salape'	without money
gai	gai salape'	have money
u	Para u banao.	He will go.
bai	Para bai hu banao.	I will go.
Yo'-type pronouns	yo', hao, gue', hit, ham, hamyo, siha	

Hu-type pronouns	hu, un, ha, ta, in, en, ma	
Emphatic pronouns	guahu, hagu, guiya, hita, hami, hamyo, siha	
gi	gi lancho	at the ranch
iya	iya Guam	Guam
giya	giya Guam	at Guam

18. Prefixes.

The following list contains the prefixes of Chamorro which will be written as part of the word to which they are attached.

a-	umapacha	touch each other
acha-	achalokka'	same height
an-	ansopbla	leftover
chat-	chatbunita	slightly pretty
e-	epanglao	hunt for crabs
ge'-	ge'papa'	further down
gi-	Gilita	person from Rota
hat-	hattalom	further in
ke-	kehatsa	about to lift
la-	lage'hilo'	a little higher up
ma-	maguaiya	be liked (passive)
man-	manmanhasso	thoughts
mi-	misalape'	lots of money
mina'-	mina'tres	third
na'-	na'maolek	make good
san-	sanlagu	towards north/ east
tai-	taiguenao	like that
tak-	takkilo'	way up high
ya-	yaguatutu	furthest away

19. Suffixes.

The following list contains the suffixes of Chamorro which will be written as part of the word to which they are attached. (The first item of the list is a discontinuous affix which may be considered part prefix and part suffix.)

fan...an(yan)	fanbinaduyan	place of deer
-on	guasa'on	sharpener
-i/-iyi	sangani/sanganiyi	tell to/for
-ñaihon	saganñaihon	stay for a while
-guan	pinalakse'guan	slip of the tongue
-ña	bunitaña	prettier

20. Clitics.

Because of the special relationship that the possessive pronouns have with the stems to which they are related, they will be attached by hyphens, as in the following examples:

relos-hu	my watch
relos-mu	your (sg.) watch
relos-ña	his/her watch
relos-ta	our (incl.) watch
relos-mami	our (excl.) watch
relos-miyu	your (pl.) watch
relos-ñiha	their watch

21. Reduplication and Infixes.

Reduplicated syllables and infixes will be written as part of the word even though the resulting words may contain an unusually large number of letters. Words will be divided on the basis of the rules presented in this paper, not on the basis of length. Some examples of long words resulting from multiple affixation and reduplication are given here:

manachachama'a'ñao
na'lage'hilu'i
manmangguaguaiya

This concludes the general spelling rules for the Chamorro language as adopted by the Marianas Orthography Committee in Saipan, M.I., January 21, 1971.